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## Monthly Weather Review Centennial, 1872–1972

The December issue of this volume will mark the completion of 100 years of continuous publication of the *Monthly Weather Review*. Although the first issue of the *Monthly Weather Review* is dated July 1872—a reproduction of the one-page data summary is presented on the facing page—the first six issues (July–December 1872) were published retroactively in 1873 and were later combined with the 1873 issues to form volume 1.

Professor Cleveland Abbe, who made the first published official forecasts for the U.S. Signal Service in 1871, is credited with initiating and guiding the *Review* through its early years. For the first 20 years, however, the *Review* was compiled and edited by a board of officials under the direction of the Chief Signal Officer. Then, in 1893, Professor Abbe became Editor, a capacity in which he served (except for a 6-year period) until his death 23 years later.

Over the past century, the character of the *Monthly Weather Review* has changed tremendously, reflecting the changing character of the meteorological science. A casual perusal of the 100 volumes reveals both evolutionary and revolutionary changes within a remarkably stable format. In addition to an unparalleled continuity of data presentation, these volumes also document a century of progress in the theoretical and practical aspects of meteorology and the resulting services to the public.

The *Review* grew from a one-page monthly data summary in 1872 to a 100-page data compilation by 1909, and then by stages to its more recent status as a monthly scientific journal of world-wide reputation. During this growth period, the *Review* underwent six major publication policy changes, alternating between the publication of observational data alone and publication of both data and original contributions.

During the three “data” periods, 1872–1893, 1909–1914, and 1942–1948, meteorological information was published in the form of weather charts, weather reports, brief notes, abstracts, and climatological summaries. Only occasionally were articles on some special weather occurrence or a local forecast study published during these periods.

In 1894, after the initial data period, Professor Abbe began publishing fundamental scientific contributions together with the weather summaries; by 1908, these contributions were a major part of the *Monthly Weather Review*. At that time, however, this practice was interrupted by a policy change that led to the second era of data publication.

In 1915, publication of scientific papers was renewed, and from 1915–1941, the weather charts and data in the *Review* were evenly balanced by major scientific contributions, news, notes, and reviews.

Following the final data period (1942–1948), the *Review*, under the editorship and guidance of James E. Caskey, Jr., achieved its current status as a primary scientific journal in the field of meteorology. In 1950, the data tables were eliminated and published elsewhere. In 1959, the several monthly charts were deleted as a regular feature and the *Monthly Weather Review* ceased to be a medium for the publication of climatological data.

Despite all of the above changes, however, the essence of the original *Monthly Weather Review* (i.e., the summary of current weather conditions over the continent during the month) remains in the form of a monthly weather and circulation article.

We have seen, in the pages of the *Review*, the spectacular development of the science of meteorology during the past century. The growth of knowledge and understanding of the atmosphere has been especially rapid during the past two decades with the advent of numerical weather prediction techniques and the meteorological satellite. Even greater advances are visualized as greater understanding and new technologies come into being.

The *Monthly Weather Review* will, as in the past, continue to report the newest concepts, techniques, discoveries, and other research results as they evolve. We shall endeavor to keep the promise made at the time of the 100th anniversary of the national weather service by Dr. Robert M. White, Administrator of NOAA, “to see that the *Review* remains responsive to the increasingly varied interests of our readers and the needs of the science and service of meteorology.”

HAROLD A. CORZINE, *Editor*.